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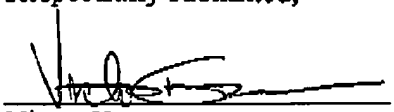
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner outlines a restriction requirement between claims 1-28 drawn to a vending machine, classified in Class 312, subclass 45 and claims 29-30 drawn to a method of locking a main door of a vending machine, classified in Class 312, subclass 352. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Essentially, the Examiner has set forth a restriction between the apparatus and method claims presented in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application. The Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be an undue burden to search an additional subclass of Class 312 in order to address all the claims presented in the application. That is, as subclass 352 of Class 312 only contains 25 patents and 5 published applications, the Applicant submits that the burden placed upon the Examiner to search this additional subclass would be minimal at best. In any case, in order to comply with the requirements of the M.P.E.P., the Applicant elects, with traverse, to continue prosecution on claims 1-28.

If the Examiner should have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Victor Kernus
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 50,146

Date: May 23, 2006
DIEDERIKS & WHITELAW, PLC
12471 Dillingham Square, #301
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Tel: (703) 583-8300
Fax: (703) 583-8301

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